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BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :-

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the Health of the Boston Rural District during the year 1940. The Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health dated 16th. February, 1940, but having regard to the Ministry's Circular 2067 of the 19th. July, 1940, the contents have been much curtailed and confined to essential and urgent matters arising from or connected with the War and such alterations as have occurred in the Public Health Services.

This Report is therefore to be regarded as an Interim Report only. The routine work of the Health Department has been curtailed owing to the present day situation. It can be seen from the figures that the number of evacuees in the Rural District of Boston has decreased from 1,010 to 658.

Much of the work pertaining to Housing Slum-Clearance and overcrowding has had, of necessity, to remain in abeyance, but inspections have been carried out on a limited scale.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Staff of the Public Health Department and myself, I desire to express thanks to the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Public Health committee for their continued support and interest. I also wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to all the members of the Staff of the Department for the conscientious manner in which they have discharged their duties throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DC Robertson

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6 Bridge Street,
BOSTON.

20th. September 1941.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	83,936
Number of Inhabited Houses estimated at the end of 1940	5,084
Rateable Value.	£47,880
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	£186

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS :-

No change has occurred in the social conditions of the District during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births, Legitimate ...	317	172	145
Illegitimate ...	24	12	12
Still Births... ..	8	6	2
Deaths... ..	208	102	106
Birth Rate per 1,000 population... ..	...	...	17.22
Death Rate per 1,000 population... ..	...	...	10.51

Of the total number of deaths registered in the District during 1940, the following were in respect of children under one year of age :-

Males: 7 Females: 6 Total: 13.

The Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births was therefore 38.12.

Death from Measles (all ages)	1
Death from Whooping Cough	nil
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	nil
Death from Cancer (all ages)	41

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

STAFF :-

The following is the only alteration which occurred in the staff of the Department during the year.-

Chief Clerk, Health Department:-

G. Newham (Resigned May 1940)
A. A. Edwards (Appointed May 1940)

LABORATORY AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES :-

The war time facilities for laboratory and ambulance services as outlined in my Report for the year 1939 are still in force and have functioned satisfactorily.

The following Laboratories are still available to carry out the examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens from the district if required:-

(1) Public Health Laboratory, Technical College,
LINCOLN.

(2) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital,
Groby Road, LEICESTER.

NURSING IN THE HOME :-

The arrangements operated by the District Nursing Association and the Holland County Council continued to function during the year.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :-

Treatment Centres and Clinics in respect of Venereal Diseases, Tuberculosis and the Infant Welfare and School Medical Services, and also for dealing with dental orthopaedic and ante-natal cases, continue to be provided by the Holland County Council.

HOSPITALS :-

The hospital arrangements in the District remain unaltered and in the case of an emergency the Hospitals and Institutions listed below, which are included in the County Emergency Hospital Scheme, will operate as required on the instructions of the Regional Hospital Officer of the Ministry of Health.

Boston General Hospital.
Holland Sanatorium, Boston.
County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.
Johnson Hospital, Spalding.
Boston Public Assistance Institution.
Spalding Public Assistance Institution.
Boston Casual Wards.
Holbeach Casual Wards.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:-

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for the following information :-

Complaints have been received from time to time with regard to physical appearances due to iron content and also in some districts owing to odour.

This could be obviated by the installation of filtering apparatus.

Length of New Mains laid during 1940 921 yds.(2" Main)

Average Daily Consumption of Water 1940

Summer 224,340 gals.

Winter 197,989 gals.

Samples of water have been taken monthly from the main supply for bacteriological analysis, and in every case the results have been satisfactory. Two chemical analysis were taken which proved satisfactory.

During the year 8 samples of water were taken for analysis from rain water cisterns, as a result of which 5 were found to be totally unfit for domestic use.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHLINE :-

	<u>No. of Evacuees</u>		
	<u>Originally Billeted</u>	<u>At December 31st. 1939</u>	<u>At December 31st. 1940</u>
Children of School Age	1,518	849	514
Children of Pre-School Age	798	45	47
Teachers and Helpers	245	96	26
Adults	504	20	71
	<u>3,065</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>658</u>

MISCELLANEOUS :-

The routine Sanitary Inspection of the District was carried on throughout the year as far as circumstances permitted, and the position at the end of the year was quite satisfactory in spite of the fact that owing to the present situation the Sanitary Staff has been much occupied by other more urgent work.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The inspection of the dwellinghouses in the District, under the Public Health Act was carried out in an adequate and satisfactory manner during the year, although as a result of the conditions prevailing and the fact that the staff of the Department was occupied by work of a more urgent character the number inspected shows a considerable decrease when compared with the figures for a normal year. Practically no instructions were made under the Housing Act.

An undertaking in connection with a house has been cancelled as the house has been satisfactorily repaired and certain improvements made.

The Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

One licence was issued enabling the Owner of a cottage (Demolition Order in force) to re-let the premises to a tenant engaged on Agricultural work. Certain repairs had been carried out.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY :-

Inspections of farms and dairies situated in the District have been few this year.

A Licence in respect of the production of Pasteurised Milk was granted during the year. Samples of this milk have been taken periodically for analysis, and in every case the result has been satisfactory.

The following Supplementary Licences were issued during the year :-

'Tuberculin Tested' ...	...	1
'Accredited' ...	...	3
'Pasteurised' ...	...	3

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :-

All foodshops, stalls, vehicles, slaughterhouses and other premises used for the preparation of food have been regularly inspected, and a high standard has in all cases been maintained.

ADULTERATION ETC. :-

The Holland County Council is the Sampling Authority for the District under the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on October 1st, 1939.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED :-

Scarlet Fever.- 96 cases were notified as compared with 23 in the previous year.

Diphtheria.- 6 Cases were notified as compared with 21 in 1939.

Pneumonia.- 7 cases were notified as compared with 6 in 1939.

Erysipelas.- Only 3 cases were notified this year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.- 2 notifications were received.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.- 3 notifications were received.

Measles.- 129 cases were notified. This figure cannot be compared with last year's as the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939 did not come into force until 23rd. October 1939.

Whooping Cough.- 32 cases were notified this year.

Chicken Pox.- 45 cases were notified this year.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.- One case was notified.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT :-

The following cases were admitted into the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital for treatment.-

Scarlet Fever ...	...	85	Diphtheria ...	...	5
Erysipelas...	...	2	Puerperal Pyrexia..	...	1
Ophth. Neon..	...	1	Cerebro. Spinal ...	...	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:-

Arrangements for the immunisation of school children and children of pre-school age are made by the Holland County Council under the School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Services respectively.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, PROVISION OF SERA, ETC. :-

In addition to facilities for the examination of other clinical matter, the Public Health Laboratory of the Holland County Council also undertakes the typing of pneumococci and the provision of appropriate type of sera.

There is no scheme in operation in the district for the supply of measles serum.

TUBERCULOSIS:-

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total.
Cases on Register at commencement of year... ..	56	46	102
Cases added to Register during the year by notifications, transfers from other areas etc... ..	8	6	14
Cases removed from Register on account of death, removal from area... ..	17	8	25
Cases remaining on Register at the end of the year.. ..	47	44	91

Official notification of this disease is carried out with a fair degree of efficiency.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

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